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Last Updated: October 06, 2011 1:00AM

**Editorial: Lift the charter school cap****A Senate bill would go far to attract the best charter operators to Michigan and hold charter schools accountable****The Detroit News**

Legislators in Lansing are on a roll with education reform, from strengthening the teacher tenure law to calling for a better educator evaluation system. Now, a charter school bill in the Senate would lift the cap on new schools. This is an important step.

Sen. Phil Pavlov, R-St. Clair, chairman of the Senate Education Committee, introduced the charter legislation a month ago, and it recently moved out of the Education Committee and awaits a vote by the full chamber.

The charter bill does several things: It lifts the cap on university-authorized charter schools — since most schools are authorized by state universities, this could have a significant impact. Currently, there are more than 230 charters in Michigan, but the cap for university-authorized charters is set at 150. And since more than 65 percent of charters have waiting lists, there's clearly a demand for the schools.

The bill also levels the playing field for school districts that authorize charters by striking the requirement that districts have to abide by collective bargaining agreements. That's only fair, since other charters don't have that obligation. This has most likely prevented more districts from opening charter schools.

A spokesman for the Center for Charter Schools, the charter school arm of Central Michigan University, agrees with Pavlov that his bill would help attract the best charter school operators in the country to Michigan. The current restraints, such as the cap and the single site rule (which says a charter school board can only oversee one location), have prevented big-name operators with proven records from opening shop here.

Yet some education advocacy groups have argued that the bill may be moving too quickly and doesn't do enough to ensure quality schools. But Pavlov's bill does add new measures for accountability and oversight. For instance, it gives state Superintendent Mike Flanagan increased ability to suspend the authorizing rights of a university or other entity if he sees a problem.

In addition, before authorizers renew a charter school contract, the school must demonstrate improved academic performance for all student groups. Right now, families in Michigan need better choices. This bill could help make that happen.

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# Why more school choice would be good for Michigan (editorial)

Published: Thursday, September 15, 2011, 6:00 AM Updated: Thursday, September 15, 2011, 7:35 AM



By The Grand Rapids Press Editorial Board

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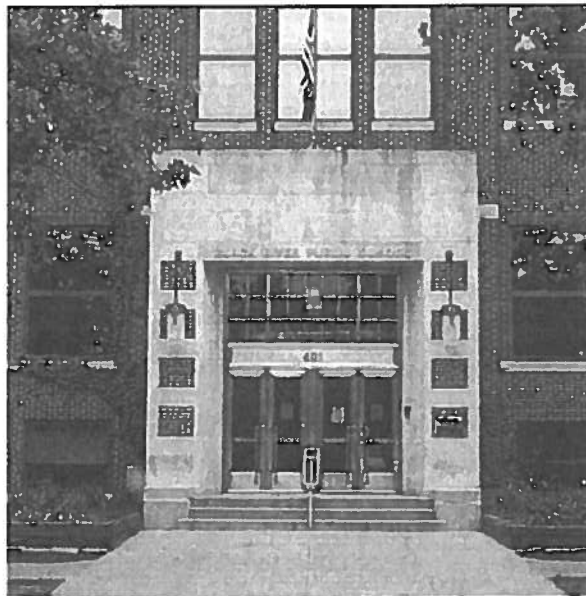
Critics argue that school choice is no panacea for the ills of education.

That's true. Of course, supporters of bills in the Legislature that would expand choice for parents and children aren't pitching the idea as a cure-all. They are arguing, simply, that more choice would empower families who are in school systems they don't believe meet their needs.

That's a modest, attainable goal, one the state Legislature should support. Seven education bills were introduced last week by GOP lawmakers. Some mirror ideas advanced by Gov. Rick Snyder. **The bills address different aspects of reform**, including expanded dual enrollment options and more online learning. The bills should be considered individually. Tying them together could doom them all.

Two of the bills would expand school choice and charter schools in Michigan. Those deserve to be passed.

The measures would lower artificial barriers that divide youngsters into districts and offer families limited options. Students in poorly performing districts would have access to districts that do



Press file photo

Legislation in Lansing would allow for more charter schools like Black River High School in Holland.

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better on standardized tests. The reason for disparities among districts are many and complex, including a strong socio-economic component. Addressing those inequities will take more than simply expanding options for parents and students.

Still, expanded choice provides families opportunities that aren't tied to their personal finances. It used to be that parents who live in a district but didn't want to send their child to the local public schools had two options: send them to private schools or move to another district. Both options typically took money and were therefore limited to those with means.

Since the 1990s, state law has expanded choices by adding charter schools, publicly funded academies that operate independent of traditional public school districts. In addition, the state allows for students to choose to go to another district — provided that district participates in the "school choice" program.

Those options have helped keep parents in cities they otherwise might have fled, stabilizing urban areas. Today, Michigan has about 110,000 youngsters enrolled in charters and some 90,000 enrolled in other districts through schools of choice. Most districts — 82 percent — participate in Michigan's schools of choice programs. This law would make participation mandatory and allow youngsters to attend any district in the state. It's still up to parents to get them there, however.

The bill continues to allow local schools to decide if they have room to accommodate students from other districts. That is hardly a violation of local control, as critics charge.

Another bill in the package would lift the limit on the number of charter schools overseen by universities. Also, a school could be converted to a charter if more than half of the parents and teachers at a school petitioned for the change.

Many charters have waiting lists for students. Parents clearly want that option. Yet they are limited by the cap set on charter schools by previous lawmakers. Neither additional charters nor more school choice would be a magic solution to everything that's wrong with education.

But they would help empower parents with more options. Lawmakers should approve them.

*E-mail a letter to the editor for publication in print: [pulse@grpress.com](mailto:pulse@grpress.com) Please keep letters to less than 200 words and include your full name, home address and phone number.*

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# Survey finds strong support for more public school choice

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BY LORI HIGGINS

DETROIT FREE PRESS  
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Michigan residents overwhelmingly support giving parents whose children attend failing schools the option to send their kids to better schools, according to results of a survey released Monday.

The results come as the state Legislature considers a wide-reaching, controversial package of bills that, in part, would lift caps that restrict the number of charter schools that can open.

"Michigan families have grown lethargic of the status quo and want the ability to choose where and how their children receive the best education possible," Paul Long, president and CEO of the Michigan Catholic Conference, said in a news release. His organization -- the public-policy voice of the Catholic Church in Michigan -- commissioned the poll and backs the legislation.

About 600 likely voters were surveyed Oct. 6-9 by Lansing-based Marketing Resource Group. The results have a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points. Among the findings: 82% say they think parents of children who attend failing schools should be allowed to send their children to better-performing schools in other districts.

Fifteen percent disagreed. The rest were undecided.

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## Viewpoint: Removing charter cap will create more schools that will succeed

Published: Thursday, October 20, 2011, 8:17 AM Updated: Thursday, October 20, 2011, 8:22 AM

By The Muskegon Chronicle

Chronicle

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By Dan Quisenberry

As The Chronicle pointed out in its Oct. 16 editorial, "**Quality vs. quantity: Education debate focused on the wrong thing,**" the Michigan Legislature is considering a package of legislation that will dramatically reform public education in this state. Called the Parent Empowerment Education Reform package, the legislation will remove many of the restrictions that have inhibited educational improvement in the past. Among other things, it will remove the arbitrary limit on university-chartered schools in the state.

The Chronicle argues that when it comes to education, quality is more important than quantity. We couldn't agree more. The Chronicle also blames poor school performance on "tolerating failure, for being afraid of change, for taking the easy way out." Educational experts increasingly recognize that broad school reform will occur only when policymakers pave the way for both greater achievement AND greater innovation, like expanding charter schools.

That's why we take issue with The Chronicle's conclusion: "We think the bills will simply create more schools that will fail." In fact, the evidence points in the opposite direction. By their nature and design, public charter schools are improving and implementing innovative approaches that teach children, empower parents and better manage schools. We do need more, not less.

By any measure, charter schools outperform traditional public schools in their home districts. On last year's MEAP test, charter schools scored 10-15 percent better than traditional public schools in Detroit, Flint, Lansing and Grand Rapids. When it came to meeting AYP standards, charter schools outperformed traditional public schools once again. For example, in Detroit, only 33 percent of Detroit Public Schools met AYP standards, compared to 70 percent of charter schools.

You'll also find a number of charter schools at the very top of the academic spectrum in Michigan, including Black River Public School in Holland, which was recently named the best high school in the state by The Washington Post (using a statistical matrix that looks at how well schools prepare their students for college).



Dan Quisenberry

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When charter schools DO fail, they're closed down. In the past 17 years, 50 charter schools have been closed down by their authorizers. How many traditional public schools have been closed down because of poor performance? The answer is zero. If you want to talk accountability, it's easy to see who wins that debate.

Here's a key point that The Chronicle missed in its editorial — a point that directly addresses the false notion that "the bills will simply create more schools that will fail." There are a number of high-performing charter school operators from out of state that would love to replicate their success in Michigan. The problem is, none of these operators will come to a state that operates under a charter cap.

Tim Wood, director of the Charter Schools Office at Grand Valley State University, explained the situation to the Senate Education Committee during testimony on Sept. 21: "What we found is that the national operators are also being pursued by every other state in the union. ... We cannot say to an out-of-state, high-performing operator that we will assist you and follow your system and follow your program, and open good schools, and commit to you to open X number of schools in X number of years, because the cap is there."

High-quality operators like KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) and Rocketship Education have drawn praise from all quarters — everyone from President Barack Obama to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. There's universal agreement that schools such as these succeed wherever they've gone, so why wouldn't we want them to come here?

By this point alone, it's clear that removing the charter cap will not create more schools that will fail — it will create more schools that will succeed.

Even if you feel that parents don't deserve more choice in public education, we hope you agree that students deserve the best possible schools they can get. Removing the charter cap will allow Michigan to take a major step in that direction.

Dan Quisenberry is the president of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, the state's united voice for charter schools.

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## Francesca Caal Skonos, 14, is the youngest student on JCC main campus

Published: Saturday, October 15, 2011, 7:00 AM Updated: Saturday, October 15, 2011, 5:14 PM



By Bob Wheaton | Jackson Citizen Patriot

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Francesca Caal Skonos' professor at Jackson Community College couldn't believe it when she found out the girl who sits in the back row and regularly participates in classroom discussions is only 14.

"I was shocked," said Larissa Nemoianu, who teaches Francesca's cultural anthropology class. "She's very mature. She's always asking questions. She's not inhibited."

Francesca, a sophomore at da Vinci High School, is the youngest student taking a class on JCC's main campus, according to college records. She is among 273 high school students who are dual-enrolled at the college this semester.

"I'm not, like, a super-genius," the soft-spoken teen said. "I'm just really ambitious."

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Francesca walks from da Vinci High School, which is on the JCC campus, to her anthropology class in McDivitt Hall.

A student who sits next to her is the only one who knows she's only 14, Francesca said, although she assumes most of her classmates can tell that she's younger than them.



CITIZEN PATRIOT | KATIE RAUSCH

Francesca Caal Skonos, left, speaks up in her anthropology class at Jackson Community College in Summit Township. The teenager is a student at the da Vinci Institute, and at 14, she also is the youngest student at JCC.

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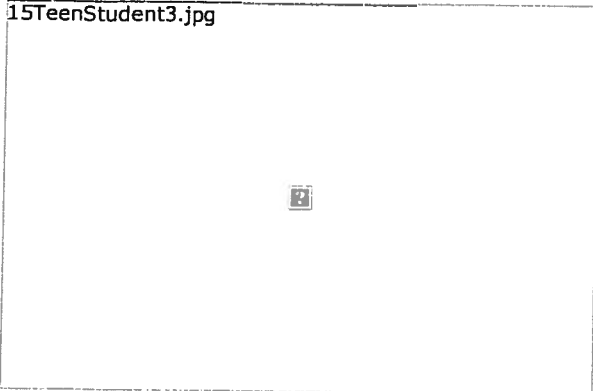
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Francesca, a Summit Township resident, said she is a 4.0-student at da Vinci.

"I think I have like an 80-something (percent)" in the JCC course, she said.

15TeenStudent3.jpg



CITIZEN PATRIOT | KATIE RAUSCH

Francesca Caal Skonos, center, listens to her professor lecture during her anthropology class at Jackson Community College in Summit Township.

She works hard in the anthropology class, taking lots of notes and getting to class 15 minutes early so she can prepare for the day's work.

"I wanted to do a college class because I wanted to get ahead," Francesca said.

She picked anthropology because she has traveled a lot and thought it would be interesting to learn about human culture. Francesca's dad, Mariano Caal, is from Guatemala. She's visited that country and Spain, and also plans to go to Greece.

She plans to take more college classes

next semester.

Francesca — whose older brother Marco also attends da Vinci — wants to study medicine at the University of Michigan and become a family practice physician.

Her mother, Stephanie Skonos, who is a registered dietitian, said Francesca pushes herself.

"She did this on her own," Skonos said of Francesca attending JCC. "She enrolled. She took the class."

Taking a college class was intimidating at first, Francesca said. She described her first day as "nerve-wracking."

"I sat in the back and I didn't really talk to anybody. But I realized that you've kind of got to talk in the class," she said.

Francesca got marked down for not participating in discussions. Ever since, she has made sure to raise her hand.

Sandy Maxson, da Vinci superintendent and high school principal, said the school has many students enroll at JCC, but Francesca has been the youngest. Usually students don't dual-enroll until they're 17 or 18, she said.

"She's really interested in learning," Maxson said of Francesca. "When we see a student in class who's doing well, we go to them because we want them to spread their wings a little."

Francesca isn't the youngest student to take a class at JCC. Two other 14-year-old students are enrolled at JCC's Lenawee County campus, college records show. The Citizen Patriot in 2002 reported on an 11-year-old boy who took a Spanish class with his father.

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## COMMENTARY — All parents deserve school choice

By Dan Quisenberry  
Special to The Sentinel

Posted Nov 01, 2011 @ 02:59 AM

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Lansing — In its Oct. 22 editorial, “Don’t rush to raise cap on charter schools,” The Sentinel rightly points out that Holland is home to three of the highest-performing charter schools in the state.

Black River Public School, Eagle Crest Charter Academy and Vanderbilt Charter Academy are among the very best of Michigan’s 255 charter schools. As the editorial notes, Black River was recently named the best high school in the state by the Washington Post, using a statistical matrix that looks at how well schools prepare their students for college.

The good news is that parents in the Holland area are tremendously fortunate to have these charter schools as an educational choice for their children. The bad news is that there aren’t enough of these schools to go around. More than 70 percent of charter schools in the state have waiting lists, including Black River, where the list is more than 220 students long.

Think about that: More than 220 parents in Holland have to hope they win a lottery to get their child in the public school of their choice. Is that any way to run an educational system?

The Michigan Legislature is currently considering a package of bills that would remove the arbitrary limits that have stifled innovation and choice in the state. While we agree with much of what The Sentinel says in its editorial, we take issue with its core position that now is not the time to lift the cap on charter schools.

Now is certainly the time to lift the cap on charter schools in the state. In fact, it’s past time. We feel that Michigan needs great public schools of every stripe — traditional and charter — and removing the cap on charter schools will help all of our schools improve.

How? By providing competition. Lanny Davis, a former official in President Clinton’s administration, explained this concept perfectly in a recent op-ed piece: “First and foremost, it busts monopoly power, where one organization, such as the school district, has a captive group of customers, i.e., public school students, who have no choice but to be subject to the monopoly. And it provides the benefit of competition — students have choices, and if the charter school doesn’t work, they (i.e., their parents) can vote with their feet. And perhaps more importantly, the public school system is no longer a monopoly — they must do better or they will lose more students to charter schools.”

The Sentinel worries that removing the cap on charter schools might hurt traditional public schools. In fact, removing the cap will help them.

As for the concern that charter schools aren’t helping students in Michigan’s most economically disadvantaged areas, nothing could be further than the truth. An apples-to-apples comparison shows that charter schools outperform traditional public schools by 10-15 percent on the MEAP in the state’s biggest cities, including Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids and Lansing.

Charter schools in those cities have waiting lists, too. Which means students in those cities are being hurt — not helped — by the charter cap. If parents can’t get their children into the best possible school, how is that a good thing?

There are thousands of parents in places like Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids and Lansing who deserve the choice that charter schools provide.

There are also 220-some parents in Holland who can’t get their children into the school they want.

There’s nothing right about that.

— Dan Quisenberry is the president of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, the state association for charter schools.

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## Editorial: Charter schools push traditional schools out of their comfort zones

Published: Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 1:15 PM Updated: Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 1:24 PM



**By Jackson Citizen Patriot staff**

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Last Wednesday, the Jackson area offered a clue to how public and charter schools might come to live happily side by side for a long time to come.

Officials at Jackson Public Schools, the county's largest school system, cautiously cheered the addition of 50 students this school year. It helps enrollment that a charter school in town, the Jackson Arts and Technology Academy, closed shop this summer.

Meanwhile, enrollment continued its steady climb at Paragon Charter Academy, the larger of two still-open charter schools in the county. Parents often seek out Paragon as an alternative to JPS.

We note their success as state lawmakers prepare to throw the doors open to more charter schools in Michigan. There are about 250 now, and a bill that passed the state Senate last week would remove all limits on the number of charters and where they could open.

Critics of the legislation might look to Jackson and think again. This community is an example of how charter schools can help students — and help existing public schools, too.

Charters offer more flexibility to parents, both in classroom programming and atmosphere.

And as JPS officials have seen students (and their state aid) leave, they have been forced to get better. They have stepped up their game, with a year-round school at Hunt, an International Baccalaureate program at Sharp Park, a fine arts emphasis at Cascades.

Charter schools are not a cure-all. Their students' test results are not uniformly better.

They fail sometimes.

But they push traditional schools out of their comfort zones. Ultimately, they force all education to be more dynamic. Michigan should benefit if more charter schools open.

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## Charter schools — the smart answer to public education

By Lanny Davis - 10/19/11 07:47 PM ET

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In the 1960s, the late New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (D) used conservative, market-based, competitive forces to renew and create new jobs in the inner-city wasteland of the minority neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn. A cynical New York City reporter (a redundant expression) was heard to mutter, as he heard Kennedy's pro-market, pro-business ideas to help the poor, "You sound like Barry Goldwater." Legend has it that Kennedy responded: "Maybe, but I know that I mean it."

Today we have a concept called "a charter school," which uses private market forces and competition to improve our public school system — by breaking the traditional monopoly franchise of the public school district, run by local boards of education.



A charter school, despite misunderstanding by many people, is a public school and is part of the public school system. It has also been mischaracterized as a private school, or as a door-opener for public-funded vouchers to pay for private schools. That is wrong. But it is a school under contract — with one party a public entity — such as the board of

education or the school system superintendent — and the other a private party, whether a for-profit company, parents or teachers.

The deal is this: The contract, or "charter," allows the outside entity to operate the school free of the uniform rules applying to curriculum, teaching salaries, hiring and firing and other operating details that are applicable to all public schools; but in return, the charter school must deliver on pre-agreed goals, such as performance measured by standard tests or graduation rates.

What does this achieve? A lot. First and foremost, it busts monopoly power, where one organization, such as the school district, has a captive group of customers, i.e., public school students, who have no choice but to be subject to

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the monopoly. And it provides the benefit of competition — students have choices, and if the charter school doesn't work, they (i.e., their parents) can vote with their feet. And perhaps more importantly, the public school system is no longer a monopoly — they must do better or they will lose more students to charter schools within the public school system.

Success stories of the charter school movement can be found across the nation. In Detroit, with one of the highest dropout rates in the country, a charter school called University Prep Academy was founded in 1998 by the visionary Doug Ross, a former Labor Department official. He received supplementary private funding and promised to meet the goal of 90 percent graduation and 90 percent going further to some type of higher education. And he met those goals, using creative teaching, curriculum and personalized techniques.

For example, parents at Prep Academy must attend "Learned Team Meetings" with their children three times each year. The academy develops curriculum "one student at a time," allowing students and teachers to develop their own learning plan, updated at the end of each marking period. Up to eighth grade, instead of grades, the school evaluates students with a combination of learning checklists, rating scales and narrative comments.

Another success story is a charter school in Chicago, called the Youth Connections Charter School (YCCS) at Malcolm X Community. The contracting party is a for-profit company called K12, run by another educational visionary, Ron Packard. But the school itself is run by a nonprofit board, which includes representatives of public entities and community leaders. YCCS in itself deserves a separate column and study: It serves only kids out of the school system for at least a year — whether dropouts, in jail, or girls who have had babies. The results — using a hybrid of online, supervised education or in-school teaching — are nothing short of miraculous. Graduation rates at YCCS have also exceeded 90 percent.

So charter schools are the latest example of the benefits of challenging government monopolies, with the resulting benefits of competition, private investments and innovation. This lesson is just as true in order to achieve such liberal goals as creating jobs and enrolling lower-income people in affordable healthcare as it applies to public school education.

*Davis, the principal in the Washington law firm of Lanny J. Davis & Associates, which also specializes in legal crisis management, served as President Clinton's special counsel from 1996-98 and as a member of President George W. Bush's Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. He is the author of the book Scandal: How "Gotcha" Politics Is Destroying America.*

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This is an excellent idea to encourage innovation and new solutions. We have a very diverse population in this country and need flexible solutions like this to meet the needs of our children. They need to be the priority, not the employees of the system.

BY BRIAN on 10/20/2011 at 09:51

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[Ingrid Jacques](#)

Posted by [Ingrid Jacques](#) on Mon, Sep 12, 2011 at 11:08 AM

### The value of choice

Nineteen new charter schools opened last week in Michigan, which is a boon for families who aren't satisfied with their current public school. Most charter schools have waiting lists, which is a testament to their good work. Twelve of these new schools are the result of an important provision from previous legislation, which allows the authorizers of high-performing charters (called "Schools of Excellence") to open other schools.

Currently, the state caps the number of university-authorized charters. While school districts can open as many charters as they'd like, most don't.

A group of reform-minded senators in the state Senate have introduced a package of legislation that would expand education choices for parents. One of the proposals is lifting the cap on university-authorized schools.

This mirrors legislation in the U.S. House, introduced by Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., chair of the Education and Workforce Committee. In a press release, he says the following:

*"The stories of charter school success are nothing short of impressive. Students who previously had little hope have been inspired by excellent teachers to reach new heights. The tales of groundbreaking programs and initiatives at local charter schools have motivated surrounding public schools to improve. Parents have witnessed children of all backgrounds transition from struggling to excelling as a result of their charter school education. Unfortunately, there are not enough charter schools to meet demand, and hundreds of thousands of students remain on waitlists each year."*

Not all charter schools are perfect. But the fact so many have waiting lists proves that a lot of parents aren't satisfied with the quality of their traditional public school. [The Washington Post](#) last month acknowledged how charters in D.C. have raised student test scores and have proven that kids can succeed - even if their home life or family income is less than ideal. This is certainly applicable to Detroit.

At both the state and national level, lawmakers should do everything they can to encourage the best authorizers and school boards to oversee more schools. Giving families more choices is a good thing, but they should be quality choices.

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


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Posted: 6:24 PM Aug 19, 2011

## More Charter Schools Could Soon Be Allowed in Michigan

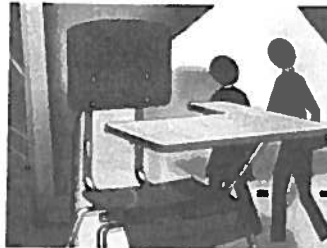
Parents could soon have new options as to where they send their kids to school if new legislation goes through.

Reporter: Sherene Tagharobi

Email Address: [sherene.tagharobi@wilx.com](mailto:sherene.tagharobi@wilx.com)

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Fourth grade teacher Stacey Johnson is going on her eighth year at Cole Academy.

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"I know the kids in kindergarten's names, I know the first graders, the second graders, they know me, everybody knows everybody," she said.

It's one of seven charter schools in Ingham County, and there could soon be more.

"They're very successful, they're innovative, they're very popular and demanded by parents around the state," said Dan Qulsenberry, president of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies.

Cole is just one example.

"Kindergarten is full and there's a lengthy waiting list, first grade's full, there's a shorter waiting list, second grade we have one or two openings," said Principal Brian Shaughnessy.

And the applications don't stop coming. That's why some lawmakers want to lift the cap on the number of schools universities can charter.

"70 percent of them have waiting lists, sometimes it can be as big as double the enrollment of the school," said Qulsenberry.

But Michigan Education Association president Iris Salters thinks 242 charter schools is enough.

"They may be the silver bullet for businesses that want to run charters but they certainly are not for students,"

If last year's math and reading MEAP scores are any indication, they are some sort of "silver bullet" in Lansing, Flint, Detroit, and Grand Rapids. Charters beat traditional districts by up to 15 percent.

For Mrs. Johnson it's about flexibility.

"If I'm not through a lesson or if things kind of went over I have the flexibility to push that back 15 minutes," she said.

But that's not reason enough for some to take focus and money from public schools as a whole.

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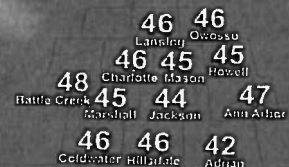
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## Black River Public School administrator Shannon Brunink testifies in Lansing to support expansion

By Staff reports

**The Holland Sentinel**

Posted Sep 21, 2011 @ 11:01 PM

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Holland — Black River Public School Academy Head of School Shannon Brunink testified Wednesday before the state Senate Education Committee in Lansing in support of legislation that would allow charter schools to expand.

Brunink, whose college prep-style charter school in Holland operates with a waiting list of prospective students, spoke out in favor of legislation that would lift the cap on the number of charter schools in Michigan.

"I think the legislation that is coming forward and the ideas that are coming to you have the possibility of allowing students and parents to make the choice that they deem is best for their child," Brunink said.

"We feel that students and parents should have the choice to select any district if they feel they could be served better by a charter school. We should allow more charter schools to open, and allow those charter schools to serve those kids."

Black River recently was ranked top in the state in a Washington Post report looking at the number of advanced placement and other college prep tests schools give their students.

"In my school in Holland, we have a wait list right now of 224 kids in every grade level that we cannot get into our school," Brunink said. "Those kids would like to go somewhere else besides their traditional public school district."

More than 70 percent of charter schools in the state have waiting lists, according to updates from the Michigan Association of Public School Academies.

The legislation is part of a package of education-reform bills introduced by Sen. Phil Pavlov, R-St. Clair. According to Pavlov's office, Senate Bills 618-624 would also:

- Expand opportunities for web-based or cyber charter schools in Michigan
- Allow a majority of parents or teachers at a school to petition their district to convert the school to a charter
- Expand dual-enrollment opportunities for high-achieving students and the ability of districts to provide services to part-time, non-public students
- Meet the specific request laid out by Gov. Rick Snyder in his special message to the Legislature on education that all districts in the state participate in the current schools of choice program.

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